

Overview

The focus of this lesson is the physical geography of Kansas. Students will read three *Read Kansas* cards, one on eastern Kansas, one on western Kansas, and one on understanding elevation. The students will study text features to locate content information. The lesson is designed to take two class periods, but can be adjusted to meet individual classroom needs.

Standards

Geography:

Benchmark 2, Indicator 1 The student identifies and compares the physical characteristics of eastern to western Kansas and regions of the United States (e.g., rainfall, location, land and water features, climate, vegetation, resources).

Reading:

Benchmark 4, Indicator 2 The student understands the purpose of text features (e.g., title, graphs/charts and maps, table of contents, pictures/illustrations, boldface type, italics, glossary, index, headings, subheadings, topic and summary sentences, captions) and uses such features to locate information in and to gain meaning from appropriate-level texts.

Objectives

Content:

- The student will identify two geographic regions of Kansas.
- The student will describe at least three physical characteristics of eastern and western Kansas.
- The student will explain the difference in elevation between eastern and western Kansas.
- The student will identify two different economic activities for the two regions.

Skills:

- The student will identify at least five text features.

Essential Questions

- What is (physical) geography?
- How does geography affect the way people live?



Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* cards:

- **Eastern Kansas**
- **Western Kansas**
- **Understanding Elevation**

Day 1

1. Introduce this lesson by asking the students a question: Do they live in eastern Kansas or western Kansas? Have them explain their answers.
2. Explain that there are different ways that people “divide” Kansas. People who study the land are called geographers. They study the physical characteristics or traits of the land. Most geographers divide the state along the 100th meridian.
3. Explain that in this lesson they will learn about dividing the state into two regions according to physical features. They will be reading three *Read Kansas* cards that identify different physical characteristics of the state.
4. Much of the information in the *Read Kansas* cards is located in “text features.” Understanding and using text features helps students become more proficient readers.
5. Explain to students that when they have finished reading all three *Read Kansas* cards they will play a game. They will be asked to answer two types of questions in the game. The geography questions will be about physical features of Kansas and the text feature questions will require students to name the text feature associated with where they found the information.
6. Write this list on the board and title it “Text Features.” You may wish to provide definitions of these features as you write this list.
 - Titles
 - Headings
 - Captions
 - Drawings
 - Charts or Graphs
 - Maps
 - Photographs
 - Text boxes
 - Boldface words
7. Distribute the **Finding Text Features** worksheet to every student to help students identify these features on the *Read Kansas* cards. Students will write an example of the text feature from the worksheet in the appropriate column when they locate that feature on the card.
8. Distribute the **Eastern Kansas** *Read Kansas* card. Give students time to scan the card for these text features.
 - As a class, complete the **Finding Text Features** worksheet for the **Eastern Kansas** *Read Kansas* card and read the information these features contain.
 - Have the students read the entire **Eastern Kansas** *Read Kansas* card and discuss the physical characteristics of eastern Kansas.
9. Distribute the **Western Kansas** *Read Kansas* card. Repeat the activities for locating text features and then discuss the physical characteristics of western Kansas.
10. Distribute the **Understanding Elevation** *Read Kansas* card. Repeat the activities for locating text features and understanding the term “elevation.”

Day 2

1. Prior to the second day, the teacher needs to copy on heavy paper and cut apart the **Geography** and **Text Feature** cards on page 8.
2. Briefly review the topic of physical characteristics of eastern and western Kansas from Day 1.
 - Divide the class into two teams. Team members will need to sit together.
 - Provide each student with a copy of the *Read Kansas* card for the first round (Eastern Kansas). There will be three rounds (one for each *Read Kansas* card) and students will work with only one *Read Kansas* card per round.
 - One student from each team will draw a card that says either “Text Feature” or “Geography.” This will determine which question (Geography or Text Feature) that team needs to answer. By default, the other team will answer the corresponding question. Cards are returned to the pile before the next question. Teams alternate selecting cards for each question.
 - The teacher will read the question. The team will work together to find the answer.
 - After a preset amount of time the teacher can call on any student in the group to answer the question. (If the answer is “heading,” the team must answer with the name of the heading, e.g., “Climate.”)
 - Teams get one point for each correct answer.
 - The game continues until all three *Read Kansas* cards have been used and corresponding questions have been asked. The winning team is the one with the most points.

Extended activity: Create a postcard for eastern or western Kansas. Draw a picture on the front and write a caption on the back.

Assessment

1. Evaluate the students’ ability to answer the questions correctly on the **Teaming Up on Text Features** game.

For the Teacher

There are more text features than are used in this lesson. This is a list of the common text features found in expository text:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Boldface words | • Italics |
| • Captions | • Maps |
| • Charts | • Photographs |
| • Diagrams | • Pictures/Drawings |
| • Glossary | • Subheadings |
| • Graphs | • Table of Contents |
| • Headings | • Text boxes |
| • Illustrations | • Titles |
| • Index | • Topic and Summary Statements |

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Resources for this lesson are from:

- Kansas State Historical Society collections
- Kansas Geological Survey

Teaming Up on Text Features

Use these questions to test students' knowledge of Kansas geography and text features. One question is asked, but will have either a **Geography** answer or a **Text Feature** answer.

Questions from Eastern Kansas <i>Read Kansas Card</i>	Geography Answer	Text Feature Answer
1. What city is located on the 100 th meridian?	Dodge City	map
2. What is one example of a physical characteristic?	rivers, hills, forests, or plains	heading: Dividing East and West
3. What is another name for a meridian?	a line of longitude	text box
4. Which region is larger: eastern or western Kansas?	eastern	map
5. Which river is longer: the Arkansas River or the Kansas River?	Arkansas	text box and map
6. What is another term for "Physical Characteristic?"	physical traits	boldface words
7. How long is the Arkansas River?	1,450 miles	text box
8. What is the average rainfall in eastern Kansas?	40" per year	chart
9. What is the definition of the word vegetation?	plants	boldface words
10. How long is the Kansas River?	170 miles	text box
11. Were oil wells built wider at the bottom and narrower at the top in 1893?	yes	photograph
12. What is Norman No. 1?	an oil well	caption
13. What is the main topic of this <i>Read Kansas</i> card?	Eastern Kansas	title
14. What is the average rainfall in western Kansas?	16" per year	chart
15. When rivers get too much water in them what happens?	they flood	caption
16. What is the fourth longest river in the United States?	Arkansas River	text box

17. How high was the floodwater in Topeka in 1903?	up to the windows; high enough to float boats (several answers are possible based on what students see in the photograph)	photograph
18. Name one industry in eastern Kansas.	oil production	heading: Resources
19. In what direction do the Kansas River and the Arkansas River flow?	east	text box

Questions from Western Kansas <i>Read Kansas Card</i>	Geography Answer	Text Feature Answer
1. In what region of Kansas is farming the main business?	western Kansas	heading: Resources
2. What river was used to irrigate western Kansas?	Arkansas River	caption
3. What is semiarid?	an area with low annual rainfall	boldface word
4. What city had the least amount of rainfall in Kansas history?	Johnson City	text box
5. What word means to bring water to farmland?	irrigate	boldface word
6. When was "Black Sunday?"	April 14, 1935	caption
7. What animal lived on the High Plains?	buffalo	heading: Dividing East and West
8. What is the windiest city in the United States?	Dodge City	text box
9. What is the main topic of this <i>Read Kansas</i> card?	Western Kansas	title
10. Where is the High Plains located?	western third of Kansas	map or heading: Dividing East and West
11. What was "Black Sunday?"	It was the day of a big dust storm.	caption
12. Do meridians go north to south or east to west?	north to south	drawing
13. What type of native grass grows in western Kansas?	short, coarse grass	heading: Dividing East and West
14. Is December one of the windiest months in Dodge City?	no	text box
15. Are many farms in western Kansas more than or less than 1,000 acres in size?	more than	heading: Resources
16. Western Kansas has less rainfall than eastern Kansas. What symbol is used to show that?	blue raindrop	map and key

Questions from Understanding Elevation <i>Read Kansas Card</i>	Geography Answer	Text Feature Answer
1. Which is higher in elevation: eastern or western Kansas?	western Kansas	map, key, and chart
2. Does the elevation of Kansas rise from east to west or from west to east?	east to west	map, chart, and heading: Elevation
3. In what county is Mount Sunflower located?	Wallace County	caption
4. What is the highest point of elevation in Kansas?	Mount Sunflower	map, caption, and chart
5. What is the elevation of Mount Sunflower?	4,039 feet	map and chart
6. In what state is Mount Elbert located?	Colorado	heading: How does Kansas compare?
7. What is the elevation of the Verdigris River near Coffeyville?	679 feet	map
8. What is the main topic of this <i>Read Kansas</i> card?	Understanding Elevation	title
9. Early settlers used buffalo and cow chips for fuel. How did they gather them?	by hand and hauling in a wheel barrow	photograph and caption
10. What is the lowest point of elevation in Kansas?	Verdigris River near Coffeyville	map and chart
11. On the map does the color blue designate higher or lower elevation?	lower	map key
12. Early settlers in western Kansas had to do without one natural resource for cooking and heating their homes. What was it?	trees	photograph of Ada McColl (no trees are visible)

Geography

Text Feature

Geography

Text Feature

Geography

Text Feature

Name: _____

Finding Text Features

Text Feature	Eastern Kansas	Western Kansas	Understanding Elevation
Titles			
Headings			
Captions			
Drawings			
Charts or Graphs			
Maps			
Photographs			
Text boxes			
Boldface words			